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Message Text

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51
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /157 W
---------- 074154
R 131602Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 621
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, NI
SUBJECT: GOWON RETURNS FROM COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: GOWON TERMS COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE A SUCCESS AND DISCUSSES SR ON RETURN TO LAGOS. END SUMMARY

1. ON HIS RETURN TO LAGOS FROM OTTAWA COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, GOWON COMMENTED TO REPORTERS THAT SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH REIGNED THROUGHOUT DELIBERATIONS HAD FURTHER STRENGTHENED HIS HOPES AND FAITH IN FUTURE OF COMMONWEALTH. HE DESCRIBED CONFERENCE AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND EMPHASIZED THAT MEETING PROVIDED FORUM WHERE EACH HEAD OF GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE FRANKLY TO AIR HIS VIEWS. HE PRAISED TRUDEAU AND HIS GOVERNMENT FOR HOSPITALITY GIVEN DURING CONFERENCE AND EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR CORDIAL RECEPTION EXTENDED TO HIM.

2. GOWONNOTED THAT COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SITUATION IN SR. WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTED HEALTH STATEMENT THAT HE
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SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES GOING TO

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WAR WITH SR OR SA, GOWON REPLIED THAT HE REGARDED STATEMENT AS PERSONAL OPINION WITH WHICH HE DID NOT NECESSARILY AGREE. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT SITUATION IN SR AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT BLOW THEIR TRUMPET SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO CRUSH SMITH'S REGIME. HE DESCRIBED DETENTION OF AFRICAN LEADERS IN SR AS SETBACK TO

USEFUL DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT RESOLVING INDEPENDENCE DEADLOCK.

3. COMMENT: GOWON'S AIRPORT REMARKS ON ARRIVAL APPEAR TO HAVE DEALT EXCLUSIVELY WITH SITUATION IN SR. FROM ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES GOWON SEEMS TO HAVE ACQUITTED HIMSELF WITH DISTINCTION AT HIS FIRST COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE.

4. FOR OTTAWA: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSESSMENT EMBASSY OTTAWA MIGHT HAVE ON GOWON PERFORMANCE DURING CONFERENCE.
REINHARDT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAGOS06555
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730842/aaaabemo.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOWON RETURNS FROM COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE SUMMARY: GOWON TERMS COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE A SUCCESS
TAGS: PFOR, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005